

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please add the following sentence to the specification on page 1 after the title of the invention:

**"CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS"**

This application claims priority on PCT application No. PCT/CA2004/000165 filed on February 6, 2004 and published in English under PCT Article 21(2), on Canadian patent application No. 2,418,546, filed on February 6, 2003 and U.S. provisional application no. 60/445,437, filed on February 7, 2003. All documents above are herein incorporated by reference."

Please replace the second full paragraph at page 3 with the following paragraph:

"Thermodynamic and kinetic studies of the chlorination of chromites and associated oxides such as FeO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> have also been published by Martirosyan (1978 a, b; Arm. Khim. Zh. 31, pp. 93-99; 100-106) as quoted by Kanari, Gaballah, and Allain (1999<sup>1998</sup>, Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B, 30B, pp. 577-587) for instance. These studies were centered on thermodynamic and kinetic considerations and do not teach how to apply these principles to a workable and optimized method. They do not teach the use of a catalyst to increase the efficiency of the reactions."